

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1) (Currently Amended) A device for feeding filter rods (2) in a filter tip attachment machine, comprising a take-up roller (5) presenting longitudinal flutes (7) each serving to take up and retain a respective filter rod (2), on which the rods (2) are ~~directable~~directed along a predetermined feed path (P) through cross cuttings means (9) and ~~dividable~~divided transversely into plugs (10) before being transferred to staggering means (13), characterized in that the roller (5) comprises means (40) by which to adjust the axial position of the flutes (7).

2) (Original) A device as in claim 1, comprising at least two first modules (17) affording grooves (24, 25) presented by a central portion of each flute (7), adjustable between positions distanced from and breasted with one another through the agency of the adjustment means (40) in such a way as to create a first gap (58), when in the breasted position, afforded by each flute (7) and accommodating the passage of the cutting means (9).

3) (Original) A device as in claim 2, wherein each of the first modules (17) affords a second gap (59) accommodating the passage of the cutting means (9).

4) (Original) A device as in claim 2, comprising second modules (20) affording grooves (26, 27) presented by intermediate portions of each flute (7) and capable of movement as one with the first modules (17), wherein each second module (20) combines with the relative first module (17) to

create a respective second gap (59) afforded by each flute (7) and accommodating the passage of the cutting means (9).

5) (Currently Amended) A device as in claim ~~3 or~~ 4, wherein the second gaps (59) are disposed symmetrically in relation to the first gap (58).

6) (Original) A device as in claim 4, comprising tension means (31) by which the second modules (20) are held in contact with the first modules (17).

7) (Original) A device as in claim 6, wherein the tension means (31) comprise spring means (32, 33).

8) (Currently Amended) A device as in claim 4~~claims 1 to 7~~, comprising third modules (23) affording grooves (28, 29) presented by end portions of each flute (7), disposed symmetrically in relation to the first and second modules (17, 20).

9) (Currently Amended) A device as in claim 3~~claims 2 to 8~~, comprising cross cutting means (9) consisting in one or more disc cutters (11) rotatable about axes parallel to the axis (6) of the take-up roller (5), wherein the axial positions of the first and second gaps (58, 59) are dependent on the number and position of the disc cutters (11).

10) (Currently Amended) A device as in claim 4~~claims 1 to 9~~, wherein adjustment means (40) comprise at least first motion-inducing means (41) associated with the first modules (17) and coupled to a first common transmission component (45).

11) (Currently Amended) A device as in claim 10~~claims 1 to 10~~, wherein adjustment means (40) further comprise second motion-inducing means (48) associated with the third modules (23) and coupled to a second common transmission component (52).

12) (Original) A device as in claim 10, wherein the first motion-inducing means (41) comprise a plurality of first threaded rods (42, 43) coupled to the first modules (17) by way of lead screw assemblies and presenting respective toothed heads (44), and the first common transmission component (45) comprises a first ring gear (46) concentric with the take-up roller (5) and in mesh with the toothed heads (44) of the single threaded rods (42, 43).

13) (Original) A device as in claim 11, wherein the second motion-inducing means (48) comprise a plurality of second threaded rods (49, 50) coupled to the third modules (23) by way of lead screw assemblies and presenting respective toothed heads (51), and the second common transmission component (52) comprises a second ring gear (53) concentric with the take-up roller (5) and in mesh with the toothed heads (51) of the single threaded rods (49, 50).

14) (Currently Amended) A device as in claim 13~~claims 12 and 13~~, comprising coupling means to which a tool can be fitted for the purpose of operating and adjusting the first and second common transmission components (45, 52).

15) (Original) A device as in claim 14, wherein tool coupling means consist in a socket (56) afforded by one end of at least one of the first threaded rods (42, 43), and a socket (56) afforded by one end of at least one of the second threaded rods (49, 50).

16) (Currently Amended) A device as in claim 4~~claims 2 to 15~~, wherein the first, second and third modules (17, 20, 23) combine to create voids (60) allowing the insertion and passage of take-up means associated with the staggering means (13).

17) (Currently Amended) A device as in claim 2~~claims 2 to 15~~, comprising alignment rings (61) associated coaxially with the fluted take-up roller (5) and positioned at the opposite ends of the flutes (7).